

HUMAN EVENTS

FEB 1 1964

Undercover Red Blackmailers Are Selling U.S. Passports

CPYRGHT

From the Allen-Scott Report

The first full-scale congressional inquiry of the nation's immigration laws in 10 years has uncovered "a massive Communist blackmail ring" dealing in U.S. visas and passports.

The undercover ring, which has succeeded in bringing several thousand refugees into the United States, has its headquarters in Geneva and employs agents both behind the Iron Curtain and in the United States.

These covert operators arrange the illegal purchase of valid U.S. passports and visas for refugees who want to join relatives or friends already in the United States.

Once these refugees are admitted to this country, they are contacted by U.S. members of the ring who extort funds under the threat of revealing their illegal entry to immigration officials.

These and other still secret details of the Red blackmail ring are highlighted in a report of a preliminary overseas investigation made by the Joint Congressional Immigration Committee.

Headed by Rep. Michael A. Feighan (D-Ohio), the committee turned over its findings to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to support its request for \$140,000 to complete the blackmail ring probe and to investigate other alleged "pay-offs" in the issuance of U.S. visas to refugees.

The Joint Committee's unannounced inquiry is being conducted prior to its consideration of the late President Kennedy's proposal on revising the national quota immigration system established by the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act of 1952.

The Kennedy proposal, which is being fully supported by the Johnson Administration, would eliminate all quotas based on national origin over a five-year period.

The Joint Immigration Committee based its warning of the Red blackmail ring in visas and passports on first-hand information gathered by "interviewing refugees from Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia and the United Arab Republic," and from sources within U.S. intelligence services.

The report frankly states that, "These interviews provided information on the organizational structure of a massive Communist blackmail operation at work in the free world."

It points out that, "Persons in the free world with relatives living in certain countries behind the Iron Curtain are contacted and informed that for a price in hard currencies exit permits can be obtained for their relatives. The price tag on these exit permits varies from country to country. Evidence obtained points to a well organized and widespread Communist scheme to extort funds from the refugees and their relatives. This matter is now under investigation by the Joint Committee."

The legislators stressed that they are particularly interested in the blackmail ring's operations among refugees coming from Rumania. One intelligence estimate indicates there are more than 55,000 willing to pay large sums of money in Rumania to obtain visas to the United States.

When aired in public hearings the committee's findings could influence Congress to make drastic changes in U.S. immigration policies and the State Department's handling of passports and visas.

* * *

At the time of John F. Kennedy's decision two years ago to provide \$99 million in long-term loans for the Volta River project, U.S. intelligence authorities warned President



A U. S. intelligence report names Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah as head of "The Circle", a secret Communist revolutionary group.

Kennedy that Ghana's President Kwame Nkrumah was a "Marxist with strong preferences for the Soviet System."

Not only has this dire warning been fully confirmed in recent months, but the Central Intelligence Agency has gathered new evidence of his Communist links and plans for Africa.

Continued